

INFORMATION REPORT
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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
 SUBJECT Russian Control of Anti-Communist Sentiments in the Red Army in Germany
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1. Soviet Russian security agencies in Eastern Germany have found it necessary to initiate a long-range action aimed at combatting "Western influences and the effects of Western agitation" among Red Army occupation troops stationed in the DDR.
2. Informed circles believe that Red Army morale has never been lower. Russian soldiers have told German civilians that their ranks are shot through with spies and agents and that large numbers of Soviet officers and enlisted men have been arrested during the last months. This latter action has been especially noticeable in Red Army troops stationed in Provinces Mecklenburg and Brandenburg.
3. Five Russian officers were arrested in Rathenau, charged with having listened to Russian-language propaganda emanating from the West.
4. The latest and intensified security was initiated in Potsdam. The first step the security agencies took was to search the homes and apartments of Russian officers. Police searched for Russian-language Western literature, and German-language newspapers and periodicals from the German Federal Republic.
5. Increasing unrest and nervousness has been noticeable in Red Army quarters since the Soviets initiated this action.
6. MVD forces raided and searched the barrack area in Stahnsdorf near Berlin, going through all the personal belongings of troops quartered there. The arrest of 10 soldiers resulted.
7. Radio Free Europe has been informed that this new action is subordinated to the Main Section for Internal Affairs of the Soviet Control Commission. Former Chief of the SMA (Soviet Military Authority) in Brandenburg, Major General Scharoff, a leading MVD official, now heads a special commission directly charged with checking the political reliability of Red Army forces in the German Democratic Republic. One of his duties, falling under the aforementioned general heading, is to rid the Red Army of Western agents who have allegedly infiltrated it. Major Polarenko, MVD functionary and a former SMA staff officer, has been included in the staff coordinating this Red Army "cleansing action". A Soviet first lieutenant, using the pseudonym of Karmelaki, heads the action in Potsdam.

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8. Complementing this "cleansing action" instituted by Soviet security organs, the Red Army authorities in East Germany have ordered all Soviet units to curtail further any contact with the German civilian population. The directive ordering cessation of Red Army-German contact mentioned as a fact the "infiltration of the East German population by spies and agents of the Western powers".
9. The Ministry of State Security of the German Democratic Republic has been ordered by the Soviets to cooperate in this action. Functionaries of the SSD have received orders to arrest Germans seeking contact with Red Army members.

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